

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action set forth a restriction requirement requiring applicant to elect one of the following groups of claims for prosecution on the merits:

Group I: Claims 1-7

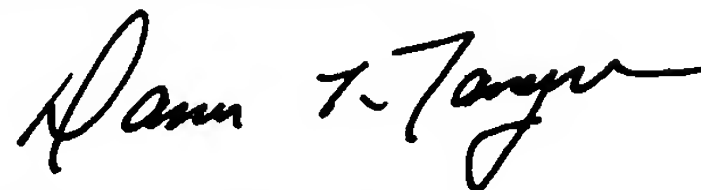
Group II: Claims 8-16

Applicant hereby elects without traverse Group II containing claims 8-16 for prosecution on the merits. As such, claims 1-7 have been cancelled herein.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 8-16 as currently pending in the present application. Should the Examiner find any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 13th day of October 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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